



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 28.12 Thursday, March 24, 2022

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Police and fire employees stood at the back of the Van Buren Township meeting room to support their police chief and fire chief as new employment contracts put them in charge of their departments without a public safety director over them

Roomful of police, fire fighters present to support their chiefs

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

When the new personal services agreements for Van Buren Township Police Chief Jason Wright and Fire Chief Dave McNally came up on the agenda of the March 15 regular meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees, a roomful of fire fighters and policemen stood up at the back of the meeting room to give the two their support.

“Look at the support,” said Trustee Reggie Miller. “This speaks volumes.”

Members of the board praised the work of the two leaders in the public safety department.

The position of public safety director retired with Gregory Laurain last month and now Chief Wright is at the head of the police department and Chief McNally is head of the fire department. McNally has a new deputy chief and the police department is in the process of seeking a deputy police chief for Wright.

“We’re excited we have new blood,” said Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

The township also had agreed to eliminate the blended-rate program that had police officers also serving on the fire department at costly time-and-a half rates. The first

part of the \$1.5 million cashout was in that evening’s budget amendments. It notes \$507,900 more in the fire fighters paid-per-call payroll line item for 2022 for the first of three annual payouts.

Human Resources Director Nicole Sumpter presented the personal services agreement and said Wright and McNally served side by side with retired Director Laurain, providing stability and influence for the public safety department.

Chief Wright completed a new policy manual for the police department, assisted with achieving accreditation for the department and has supervised countless administrative, organizational, and disciplinary tasks with the police department. Before working in Van Buren Township, Wright retired a Chief of Police from the City of Wayne Police Department. His career spans more than 20 years and he has had positions on multiple prestigious associations.

McNally worked as a fire explorer, public safety dispatcher, paid-on-call fire fighter, fire marshal to the current Deputy Director of Fire with the township during his 29-year tenure.

In other business at the March 15 meeting,



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

Van Buren Township Police Chief Jason Wright, left, and VBT Fire Chief David McNally are now fully in charge of their own departments. There no longer is a public safety director..

the board:

- Approved the first reading of an amendment to the sidewalk ordinance, which provides a framework for the township sidewalk repair program. The second reading will be April 5. The ordinance spells out the steps for sidewalk repair, with homeowners being advised of repairs needed, given 60 days to get the work done, or then the township comes in and does it and puts the cost on their taxes, payable over five years. “Haggerty, we are coming,” said Supervisor McNamara, calling out to the subdivision that is planned for work this summer. “Please take care of

it.” There are 760 parcels in Haggerty Sub. And 298 are targeted for the first round;

- Approved general fund budget amendments for FY-2022, which became necessary largely due to unfinished projects from FY-2021 for reason such as supply chain/delivery delays, ongoing renovations, staff turnover in senior management as well as some unanticipated projects and/or expenses. Water department amendments included \$2.5 million more for a Haggerty Road water line replacement, which is waiting for Wayne County Road improvements, and \$262,260 more for a

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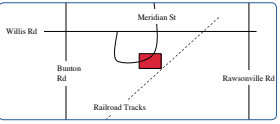
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Supervisor's deal with Wayne County shot down by trustees

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said Wayne County came to him with an offer to get Haggerty Road upgraded next year, but the township board has to accept the offer.

This was during the work/study session before the regular meeting on March 15.

Dan Power, director of planning and economic development, said the work would be on Haggerty between Ecorse and Van Born with the road being made into three lanes for almost a mile with five lanes at Ecorse and five at Van Born. There would be a traffic signal half-way. He said water lines are also a part of the project.

Work on Haggerty was originally scheduled by the county for 2028, but it would be in 2023 if the township board agreed to the new deal.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$5,728,673.63 and VBT would have to commit to cover any overage up to 10% of the project cost, which amounts to \$572,867.

Wayne County would be paying \$4.3 million and Ashley Capital, which has huge developments in that area, is chipping in \$1.4 million to hit the \$5.7 million total.

"To get a third lane is valuable," Supervisor McNamara told the reluctant trustees. "I don't want to wait for this road ... They possibly could reevaluate it and

do it in 2025 ... They won't move forward for next year without a resolution of the board."

"I don't have a problem with the scope of the work – putting in a water main, a supply for the water department, three lanes, cement," said Trustee Don Boynton. "I'm definitely against contributing any money for something that's not ours. It's the county's road. Ashley Capital is contributing. I see other businesses will be affected by this. I see no reason to contribute at all. Ashley Capital owns the majority of lots on the west side of Haggerty Road ... on the east side, businesses are also affected. I don't like \$580,000."

McNamara said it's not unusual for Van Buren Township to contribute to widening roads and Belleville Road and Ecorse Road were widened with contributions from the VBT Downtown Development Authority. He said the businesses along Haggerty would benefit, but they are huge corporations and it would take years to get the right guy at Coca-Cola to negotiate this.

Trustee Boynton said he knows the Coca-Cola vice president who goes to his church, "and he said I should tell him what I need." Boynton said the board needs a little more time to look at this.

"\$580,000 is a tough pill to swallow," he said.

McNamara said they looked into a special assessment district but that would result in

a \$20,000 payment for seven residents.

"Could we exempt them?" he asked. "I don't think so."

Clerk Leon Wright said his subdivision's homeowners' association was waiting for the county to maintain its roads because residents believe they shouldn't be paying for county roads. But if they don't pay, they won't get fixed, he said.

"We have the obligation to make decisions that sometimes are hard decisions," Clerk Wright said. He said they are not even sure it would get done in 2028.

"Even if it's a hard pill to swallow, our role is to take care of the residents ... since we have the money to build it," Wright said.

Trustee Kevin Martin said people come to the board to complain about roads and the board tells them they are county roads.

"Haggerty Road is a truck route," Trustee Martin said. "I can't believe they won't pave before 2028... A couple of weeks ago I was there and couldn't believe it ... Ten percent of the entire project is ludicrous..."

"I believe what you said in concept, but this is an opportunity to get it done," Wright said.

Trustee Miller said she came to the meeting with an open mind and no one disputes the road needs to be done. She said the homeowners' association has to take care of county roads.

"To ask the township to pay \$580,000?"

she asked. "It'll be more."

After more discussion, McNamara said he sees a 3-3 split right now so he will take it off the agenda for the regular meeting that afternoon. Trustee Sherry Frazier was absent.

He said the county was going to start design work on the Haggerty project next week if the board approved it. He said a report on the horrible condition of the road was on Channel 7 and the county saw it.

"Wayne County does not want you to do this road," McNamara said. "They want you to vote no because they'll have to move the community they already agreed to do for next year."

Treasurer Sharry Budd said Ashley Capital is willing to donate because they want to use the roadway, which is a major highway. "I don't think we'll get three lanes in the near future," she said. "I think we need to look at this closer."

"I'm not going to give up," McNamara said. "I've been working on it for two years."

In other matters during the hour-long work-study session, the board discussed the amended sidewalk ordinance and multi-departmental budget amendments for the Amended 2022 Budget, which both were on the agenda of the regular meeting that immediately followed this session.

Belleville City Council considers ways to mark outdoor drinking area

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Under state law, there has to be signs that show where the BORA-DORA district starts and stops in the City of Belleville and at Monday's regular meeting of the city council several ways were considered.

The Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) was signed into law as the "cocktails to go" law by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in June 2020 and immediately adopted by Belleville which added the Belleville Outdoor Refreshment Area (BORA) to its name.

John and Jennifer Winter of Egan's Pub worked hard to get the DORA social district into effect to help their business survive during the pandemic. Egan's was the first business in town to become a qualified licensee.

Patrons are able to buy a specially marked cup for an alcoholic beverage from a licensee that would allow them to walk and drink throughout the district.

The district now includes the Fourth Street Square and Fourth Street Place, Main Street from High to Third streets,

Roys and High streets as far as Church Street and Horizon Park as far as Church Street.

A plan to include the shopping center now under construction next to the bridge was dropped for now since the businesses have to be operating there before it can become a DORA area.

The council had agreed to markings on the sidewalk at a previous meeting, but on Monday they discussed signs on poles and sandwich signs.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said he'd like to take the ideas the councilmembers have sent to him and discuss them with a sign company to determine the sizes and colors.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said the approved logo for the cups and signs is the clock in the Fourth Street Square.

Retired councilman Tom Fielder said that the children's zone for Lakefest is now set for Horizon Park in the middle

of the alcohol zone. He said last year, when the children's zone was at Main and Third streets, people complained because people were drinking their alcohol in the children's area.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Set a public hearing for April 4 for a second reading and adoption of an amendment/addition to the Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance, as required by the state;
- Approved the special event application for the Belleville Fire Department Association's "Fill the Boot for Autism" event from 2 to 6 p.m., April 2, at the corner of Main and High streets to collect donations for the Autism Alliance of Michigan. Chris Zweng said this is the tenth-annual event for them, though they had a two-year hiatus due to COVID. April 2 is National Autism Day and some of the fire fighters have children with autism, he said;
- Approved the special event application for the Belleville Area District Library to have the Fourth Street Place closed from

noon to 4 p.m. on April 9, in the interest of public safety while the library is holding its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. They also asked for barricades at the intersection of the alley and Fourth Street Place. They expect 300 people, more or less, for the event, which runs from 1 to 3 p.m.;

- Approved the special events application for Music Lakeside, which will begin at 7 p.m. each Thursday from June 23 to Aug. 18, featuring music and food trucks. The Belleville Area Council for the Arts asked for High Street to be closed from 4 to 10 p.m. each of those days to allow for set-up and take-down. A crowd of 500, more or less, is expected for each concert;

- Approved the maintenance agreement with the Downtown Development Authority that has the DDA paying more than double what it has been. In 2021, the DDA paid the city \$103,488 for all of the services in the district. The new agreement calls for \$275,461.16 in payments to the city in 2022. "I appreciate all the DDA members," said City Manager

(continued on page 8)



O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Our library should be treasured, supported

The Belleville Area District Library has been waiting two years since its new building was completed to be able to open wide the doors and bring the community in to celebrate.

This library was built with taxpayers' money, so you own it. If you haven't taken time to look it over, it's time you did.

The library board and staff are anxious to welcome you to its open house, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. After the ribbon-cutting at 1 p.m., everyone is invited in for tours of the two floors of brand-new everything. There will be free light refreshments in the room the Rotary paid for, live music in front of the fireplace, and all kinds of things for children and adults to do and see.

The newly designed signs recently were placed throughout the building announcing who donated funds for this and that. They are very proud of their signs. Be sure to go outside on the terrace. It's a great place to sit and have a private conversation. The staff is always willing to offer assistance in doing what you want to do and they'll be there helping at the party. It'll be a great time.

If you don't like crowds, just go over to the library any time it's open, which is Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The library will seek to replace its millage in August. Check it out before you vote.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

When we read the report School Supt. Kudlak put on the school district website March 16 about the gun brought to school on March 7, I realized that somehow I had missed him saying, in his earlier oral report before the school board, that the gun was found outside of the school property. That brought lots of questions to mind, so I asked Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson about the gun.

He replied, "During the short period of time the individual was away from the school, we knew the area he ran in within several houses and yards. Sgt. Faull located the firearm within 15 minutes of the call in the backyard of a residence where the individual had run and tried to hide the firearm. The student then in the interview with me admitted to possessing the firearm at school."

The 15-year-old male was taken into custody by juvenile authorities.

Jennifer Zaenglein, director Van Buren Township's Recreation Department, had an announcement for the township board at its March 15 meeting, but first she walked up to the board table and gave each board member a small candy bar of the "\$100 Grand" brand in a bright red wrapper. Then she announced the grant she wrote last fall was successful and the township got a \$100,000 grant for work on Riggs Park. "Parks and Recreation put the fun in funding," she said with a smile. She gave me a candy bar, too, along with others in the audience.

Trustee Reggie Miller responded, "I love we're keeping Riggs Park a preserve. I thank you."



A senior citizen in Van Buren Township said they have been advised that the senior center will be closed to seniors from April 14 to June 1 so they can move equipment to Haggerty School where the senior center will operate during construction of the new community center.

We heard a report on the scanner at about 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 14, that a trash truck hit a live power line on Arkona Road between Sumpter and Elwell roads in Sumpter. The driver was reported to be conscious and breathing and will stay in the truck. A passerby talked to him.

Through the mystery of Google, J. Ross Baughman's loss of negatives in the fire at The Waverly on the Lake (former Harbour Club apartments) last summer reached the eyes of a friend in New York and he checked the files of *Life Magazine* and found some of his color negatives – and sent them to him.

Ross has spent an exciting lifetime as a photo journalist and he now lives in Van Buren Township not far from his sister Mary Ann Bitner who lives on N. Liberty Street in the City of Belleville. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his feature portfolio showing the brutal treatment of prisoners by Rhodesian Security Forces in the fall of 1977. We wrote a story on some of his losses in the fire and recently won a state award for our story.

Ross said he had used a color picture from one of the last stories he did for *Life* in his

memoirs and would like a print from the original negative. This means he must find someone with equipment to scan the original color 35mm negative and make a copy of the picture in a high-resolution setting.

If anyone knows of someone who has the kind of equipment needed for this, let us know and we'll pass it on to Ross.

Joanne Posegay of Sumpter Township called us with a list of birthdays for publication. Usually, her husband Jim calls in with family birthdays, but she said she was doing it this time because Jim had been in the hospital for a month and was now in rehab. He asked her to do it.

When I asked, Joanne explained what happened with the battery to his heart unit and how the doctors let it run out and then replaced it with a unit that was contaminated and caused an infection. She said Jim's learning to walk again in rehab and is healing. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Jim.

If you can manage, go over to BHS on Friday or Saturday and watch highschoolers from across the state compete with their robots. It's free and fun.





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Belleville, MI 48111**
734-699-9020
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Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

**The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper
published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.**

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
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Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

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Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Michigan - \$40 per year, outside of the USA - call.
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Letters

Saturday is 'Double Match Day' at Meijer

To the editor:

This Saturday, March 26, is Meijer's Simply Give "Double Match Day." On this day, Meijer will double whatever one loads on a Simply Give card. The cards are located at the end of the check-out lanes. If one puts \$10 on the card, Meijer will match with \$20, for a total donation of \$30.

Please support the Emergency Food Closet and purchase a card on this day at our local Meijer store at 9701 Belleville Rd.

The Emergency Food Closet is located at Belleville First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles St. and is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It feeds the hungry in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville.

Marilyn Wood – Coordinator
Emergency Food Closet
Belleville

Please spend the \$6.5 M on paved roads

To the editor:

So, Kristin, you live on Bemis, a paved road, and you want a bike path which will cost \$6,500,000, plus \$150,000 from Sumpter residents to bike to the library, restaurants, parks, etc.

Meanwhile, Sumpter residents drive on dirt roads full of potholes, sink holes, and ruts which will rattle your teeth. When they are graded, they turn into "dust bowl roads" of the 1930s. You need a face mask to go out to your mailbox. Finally, they are sprayed with some kind of goop that gets on your vehicle and drips on your driveway and garage floor.

Then we have the big road graders driven by a Plow Nazi who plows off the edge of your lawn like a snake track. When questioned, he replied, "I know what I'm doing. I've been doing this for 20 years." I guess making a straight road edge crooked and tearing up the edge of your lawn is "progress!" Think of what you're missing, Kristin, living on a paved road.

Some people drive a shiny clean car when a rude driver flies by and sprays mud on your vehicle. Sumpter residents hope they will one day pave our road or Judd Road so we can drive to Belleville on pavement! Please spend the \$6,500,000 plus \$150,000 on paving more Sumpter dirt roads.

Richard G.
Sumpter Township
(Name withheld by request.)

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."

– Groucho Marx

Rather have paved roads than Sumpter bike path

To the editor:

We moved to our home on a dirt road in 1968. We were hoping our road would be paved soon. (2022 – not paved yet.)

Our daughter and hubby moved to a home in Washtenaw County. About three years later their road was paved.

Instead of paying \$6.5 million plus \$150,000 to benefit a few bikers, we would like to see more of our dirt roads in Sumpter Township paved to benefit many people.

We do hope the residents, not just a few officials, will be able to vote on this important decision.

Judy G.
Sumpter Township
(Name withheld by request.)

Used book donations needed for library sale

To the editor:

Used book donations are needed for the coming Friends of the Belleville Area District Library Book Sale on May 6 and 7, noon-3 p.m. Pre-sale for members only will take place 11 a.m. – noon both days.

Memberships may be obtained at the library, at the door on the days of the sale, or on-line at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

Gently used adult, teen and children's books are appreciated in hardcover and paperback. Fiction and non-fiction in all genres, including textbooks are welcome. Also wanted are DVDs CDs, Blu-Rays and audio books. All donations should be in good condition.

Not accepted are encyclopedias, VHS video tapes or Reader's Digest condensed books.

There is a limit of two boxes of donations per library visit. The deadline for book sale donations is April 30. A donation receipt may be obtained at the library circulation desk.

The Friends appreciate your donations to help raise funds for the summer reading programs, Homegrown Knowledge speaker series, Harvest Fest and other library activities.

Friends of Belleville Area District Library

Buy a \$35 T-shirt to help fund a giant helmet to celebrate BHS champs

To buy a \$35 T-shirt to help pay for the giant football helmet ordered to celebrate Belleville High School state football champions, go to: <https://www.gianthelmet.com/football-helmet-fundraisers/giant-football-helmet-1-belleville-high-school>

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The Bayou Grill on Main Street has announced a fun lineup of entertainment coming in April, leading off with The Brian McCosky Show (singer/guitarist) on Saturday, April 2, at 6 p.m., followed by DC Malone (comedy) on Sunday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. Music returns with Fool and the Flame (acoustic duo) on Sunday, April 16, beginning at 6 p.m. Call (734) 697-2300 for tickets and ticket/dinner combo info. Simply present their ad in today's paper and get 10% off your bill.

Now through April 15, Sumpter Ace Hardware on Sumpter Road just north of Willis Road is offering a spring tune-up special for gas powered-push mowers for only \$49, plus parts. Services also include blade sharpening and deck cleaning. They also service chainsaws, blowers, weed trimmers, and more. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 697-9363.

Jessica Jones and Coldwell Banker Professionals in Belleville is providing a free seminar titled "Learn How To Buy a Home," this Saturday, March 26, from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Belleville Area District Library. Let professionals in the industry show you how easy it is to become a homeowner with zero down, with down-payment options, and down-payment assistance programs. For info and to reserve a spot, call (734) 697-1800. See their ad in today's paper.

Belleville High School FIRST Robotics Team will be hosting a regional robotic competition this weekend, March 25-26, in the high school gym. Over 40 teams/schools are scheduled to compete. Admission is free

The Yankee Air Museum's Historic Presentation Night on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. will feature the program "Japanese Balloons in Michigan During WWII," as an in-person event with speaker Michael Unsworth, a retired history librarian at Michigan State University. The PowerPoint presentation will share how Michigan was threatened by Japanese balloons during WWII. The Japanese army launched over 9,300 balloons

from their home islands, with two making the 7,500-mile trip across the Pacific and reaching Allegan and Wayne counties in Michigan. Unsworth will discuss the strategy, design, and use of the balloons in the war effort. The cost is free to museum members and \$10 for non-members. Register at www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

The Belleville Boys' basketball team (18-

6) was scheduled to face Detroit Cass Tech (21-3) on Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at University of Detroit Mercy in the Division 1 State Quarterfinal. If victorious, the Tigers will advance to this weekend's semifinals on Friday and finals on Saturday at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Good luck Tigers!

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020.

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Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Washtenaw & Wayne Counties	
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Same Day Service	\$5,995.00
Monday – Friday	

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VBT teen charged with murder after 2021 Belleville Road crash

A juvenile male, now 17, of Van Buren Township, has been charged with second-degree murder and reckless driving causing serious bodily injury in a Feb. 7, 2021 crash on Belleville Road.

He is charged with *adult designation*, which means if convicted the judge has the option to sentence him as a juvenile, or as an adult, or with a blended juvenile sentence with the option of imposing an adult sentence if he is not rehabilitated.

The car crash killed Chataya Jayana Thurman, 19, of Van Buren Township, and injured an 18-year-old Van Buren Township woman, a 56-year-old Ypsilanti woman, and a 51-year-old Ypsilanti man.

On Feb. 7, 2021, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Van Buren Township police officers were dispatched to the area of Belleville Road between Ecorse and Robson roads, for a reported head-on collision.

Upon their arrival, officers were advised that Ms. Thurman was unresponsive and trapped in the rear of the defendant’s vehicle. Medics arrived on scene and pronounced her deceased. The juvenile and the remaining victims were transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Police said the 16 year old was driving a black Pontiac G6 south on Belleville Road when he lost control and crossed the center line.

The G6 went into the path of a Chevrolet Trailblazer heading north on Belleville Road, according to authorities. The Trailblazer, driven by a 51-year-old Ypsilanti resident, struck the G6 on the rear passenger side, officials said.

The teen driver was given a \$10,000/10% bond and, if released on bond, is ordered to have no contact with the victims, no possession of weapons, and no illegal drug use. He appeared for a preliminary hearing at the Juvenile Detention Facility on March 16. A preliminary examination was scheduled for March 21 before Judge Edward Joseph.

The teen’s name will not be released because of his age.

VBT report: Car hits train on Hannan Road, only minor injuries

On Sunday at 10:24 a.m., a Nixel alert was sent out by Van Buren Township police for motorists to avoid Hannan Road between the South I-94 Service Drive and E. Huron River Drive for an accident investigation.

VBT Police Chief Jason Wright reported there were only minor injuries.

Chief Wright said a Cadillac was southbound on Hannan Road and it struck the side of a train. Airbags on the car deployed.

Van Buren Township Fire Department extracted the driver who was transported to the hospital to be checked out.

“Very minor injuries were reported,” he said. “It is my understanding the train and car we’re traveling at low speeds.”

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COVID-19 deaths remain at 128 in 48111 positive tests at 8,860

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code remained at 128 as of Monday, March 21, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 8,860 on Monday, March 21, up from 8,832 on Sunday, March 13.

On Monday, March 21, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 6,051 positive cases, 86 deaths; City of Belleville, 1,029 positive cases, 13 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,780 positive cases, 29 deaths.

The Van Buren Public Schools had two positive cases last week, one on Monday, March 14, and one on Thursday, March 17. As of March 18, there has been a total of 553 positive cases since the beginning of the school year last August.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, March 30 – Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m.
- Monday, April 4 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 5 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting
- Monday, April 11 – City of Belleville special budget session, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.

VBT

(continued from page 1)

Wildbrook lift station;

- Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd say that the planning commission and Board of Zoning Appeals pay was raised to \$75 a meeting from \$25, but the money was already in the budget and so no amendments were needed;

- Approved updated Recreation Committee bylaws, as recommended by the committee. The committee decided that a high school student of any age could apply to be a Recreation Committee Student Representative. They also decided to add that the student must be from the Van Buren Public School System and that the term would coincide with the school year;

- Approved election workers' wages in order to attract workers and compete with other communities. Chair was raised from \$210 to per day to \$300; co-chair, \$200 to \$250; inspector, \$175 to \$225; and receiving board, \$75 to \$100. Absentee Board chair will get \$20 an hour, co-chair \$18 an hour, and inspector \$15.50 an hour;

- Heard McNamara say the township is sending out a letter to businesses in the Downtown Development Authority district addressing litter issues in the township. He said the township hired temps to pick up trash and heard from the stores they were unable to get employees for the task. McNamara said they are being asked to "clean up your act" or in the next ten days the township will send out an ordinance officer;

- Heard Recreation Director Jennifer Zaenglein announce that the township has received a \$100,000 grant for Riggs Park. They applied last fall and just were told of their award. The grant is for wildlife habitats and it is to be used to expand green stormwater infrastructure, improving the habitat's quality and accessibility. The grant is primarily to be used to remove exotic and invasive plants and pay for seeding and planting native plants. There also will be site preparation at E. Huron River Drive and Martinsville for a trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail. They have two years to spend the money;

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright announce that

March 15 saw zero cases of coronavirus in Van Buren Township. "I wasn't the phobia king," he said of his constant urge to keep mask mandates and tests in place. "I try to keep people safe ... I am glad to see these numbers ... I hope someday it will be no more than a common cold that we can control";

- Heard Trustee Kevin Martin say he would like the board to reconsider work/study meetings. He said they used to be on Mondays before the Tuesday regular meetings, then every now and then, and now an hour before the regular meeting. He proposed it be on Mondays as in the past. Clerk Wright said the board can have a work/study any time for an issue they want to discuss. He said they can give it to the supervisor and he'll post it as an issue to discuss. "I had a timeline and you had to say yes or no as a board ... a moot point now," said Supervisor McNamara, referring to the deal with Wayne County on Haggerty Road upgrades. "I didn't know Wayne County was going to be on the agenda or I would have scheduled two hours," McNamara said. Four o'clock on Mondays was suggested and Trustee Miller said she wanted time for the board members to talk to each other by phone about it. "Work/study was always 4 p.m., Monday or Tuesday," Clerk Wright said.

City of Belleville

(continued from page 3)

Robinson, adding he met with each of them individually or in small groups. "I'm glad the city and DDA have a shared vision. I'm very excited to be moving forward";

- Approved the restriping of Main Street from Hayward's to Five Points by GMS Sealcoating for \$8,500. The DDA will pay 50% (\$4,250) and the city will pay 50% (\$4,250) out of the Major Streets budget. Councilwoman Kelly Bates asked if they couldn't include marking right- and left-turn lanes at South Liberty Street next to Victory Park, where drivers go every which way. That will be looked into;

- Approved accounts payable of \$483,562.51 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Cadillac Asphalt, \$641.70 from DPW for road patch; to Hundred Place, \$650

from the city manager's budget, for a facilitator for council strategic planning; and to Osborne trucking, \$1,012.28 from DPW for 21A road gravel. Councilman Steve Jones asked about the senior transportation phone that is \$100 a month and the administration will look into it;

- In his report, heard City Manager Robinson report that a lot of things are in the works. They are working on a budget and getting ready to hire some people to bring Disneyland downtown. He plans to hire in the labor category, seasonal, at \$16 to \$17 an hour to compete with the fast-food jobs. One employee start immediately and he may wait for the colleges to let out for the summer to hire the second. He said the workers need to have a solid work ethic; and

- Heard John Juriga ask the status of the building next to the police department and City Manager Robinson said it has to be down by May 2 and the contractor was let into the building last Thursday to assess the work. Juriga also asked about the museum. He said the construction of the link between the museum and the former fire station has been going slowly. Workers worked one day in December, one day in January, and

one day in February. The museum has been closed two years. Mayor Conley said that is not the city's project, and it is being done by Van Buren Township. Fielder said the grant used to construct the connector is not VBT's money. The historical society got the grant from the state, Fielder said. Robinson said he will be going to a meeting on the museum.

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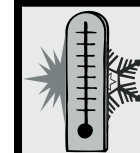
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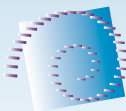
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The Belleville High School boys' basketball team headed to the Elite 8 after defeating Romulus 59-48 on Wednesday, March 16, to win the Michigan High School Athletic Association regional championship. The team was scheduled to play Cass Tech in the quarterfinals at University of Detroit's Calihan Hall on Tuesday, March 22. The semi-final games are set for March 25 and the MHSAA final game for the state championship is March 26 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, April 2** – Chili Cook-off at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Judging at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome for testing after judging (\$1 each test), but only members can enter contest. Questions? Call Jim Foley at (734) 536-1941.

• **Sunday, April 3** – Bugles Across America begins at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville.

• **Monday, April 4** – "Gardening 101 with Randy Brown" will be taught at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Do you want to grow your own plants, but don't know where to start? Randy Brown from Gardener's Choice and Randy Brown Landscape will show you how to start your own garden at home. You'll have a green thumb in no time!



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Belleville Golf Cart Ordinance goes into effect March 24

"We are very happy to announce that the new Belleville ordinance to allow golf carts to be operated on certain city-owned streets in Belleville goes into effect on March 24, 2022," said Belleville Deputy City Manager Tim McLean in a news release.

There is a \$50 fee to register golf carts. Residents interested in registering their golf cart can pick up the application material at Belleville City Hall (6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111) or online (bellevilleonthelake.com). The application material includes the full text of the ordinance, frequently asked questions, and a checklist of items that will be inspected by the Belleville Police Department.

The Belleville City Council adopted this ordinance at its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 22. This ordinance will remain in effect for a one-year pilot period. Golf cart registrations will be valid for a period of three years if the Belleville City Council adopts this ordinance on a permanent basis at the end of the pilot period.

Once you have completed your application, contact the Belleville Police Department (734) 699-2710 to schedule an inspection. For any questions about the ordinance or application process, contact Deputy City Manager McLean at (734) 252-4317.

VBT fire causes some \$50,000 in damage to Bayshore Dr. condo

Van Buren Township fire fighters were called to a structure fire at 48255 Bayshore Drive at about 1 p.m. Monday and when they arrived it was a working fire in the roof over the attached garage.

Deputy Fire Chief Andy Lenaghan said the fire extended from the garage into the living quarters of the condominium. Fire fighters from both VBT fire halls were fighting the blaze, so the City of Belleville Fire Department stood by. Fire fighters from Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township were present to help with mutual aid. They spent three hours at the scene and the

last unit left at 4:30 p.m.

Deputy Chief Lenaghan said the condo was not a total loss, with an estimate of \$50,000, and possibly more, in damage because of the water and smoke damage and trusses that need to be replaced. He said the ceiling area of the front bedroom was damaged and the fire was "hidden." Fire fighters had to pull down drywall to expose the fire and stop it from spreading.

The cause is under investigation and expected to be electrical, he said. The homeowners were at home and called in the fire. There were no injuries.



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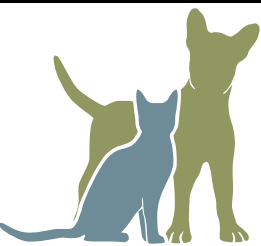
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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Last Thursday afternoon revelers started gathering outside under warm sunny skies at the tent at the Fourth Street Square in downtown Belleville to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The annual, day-long party is put on by Egan's Pub. This year, in front of the party there was a table on the sidewalk with Girl Scouts selling cookies. It was reported the Girl Scouts sold out and went home to get more cookies to continue selling.

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Public invited to watch the Robotics competition at BHS on Fri., Sat.

After two years of being closed down by the pandemic, the FREE Robotics competition is back at Belleville High School for competition on Friday and Saturday. The public is invited to attend and watch the students compete.

Before COVID came on the scene, BHS had hosted the robotic competition in 2018 and 2019.

Forty schools from across the state, including BHS, have teams that will be judged on how well the robots they have made perform.

The teams and their support crews and families will come to Belleville to register and set up on Thursday. There are crowds of visitors who don't know the area who are expected in town over the weekend.

Competition is Friday and Saturday in the main gymnasium, with the teams using the auxiliary gym for their pit areas.

The public is invited to view the competition without charge. Doors open at 8 a.m. for viewing the robots. The opening ceremonies are 10:30 a.m. on Friday, with competition beginning at 11 a.m. and running until about 8 p.m.

On Saturday, opening ceremonies will commence at 9 a.m. with competition beginning shortly after. The event is expected to conclude about 4 p.m. on Saturday.

FIRST, a national organization, stands for: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. Its founder Dean Kamen said, "FIRST is more than robots. The robots are a vehicle for students to learn important life skills. Kids often come in not knowing what to expect — of the program nor of themselves. They leave, even after the first season, with a vision, with confidence, and with a sense that they can create their own future." Kamen also is inventor of the Segway human transport.



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Belleville DDA agrees to pay more to city in new maintenance agreement

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

An updated maintenance and service-provider agreement between the Belleville Downtown Development Authority and the City of Belleville -- that brings more than two and a half times the amount back to the city for services to the DDA -- was approved unanimously as presented at the DDA's regular meeting on March 16.

The current agreement that brought \$103,488 to the city for all the services performed in 2021 for the DDA expires June 30.

The new, three-year agreement that starts July 1 will bring an estimated \$275,461.61 in payments to the city in 2022. At its March 21 meeting, the city council also approved the agreement.

The DDA captured a total of \$858,883.90

for 2021-22, with \$458,296.12 of that captured from the City of Belleville.

The current maintenance agreement has been in effect since 2017 and since then the level of service that the city provides to the DDA has not changed, said Tim McLean, deputy city manager/DDA Director, in a memo. He said the percent of property tax revenue given by the DDA to the city to perform those services has decreased in each year of the agreement. Additionally, he wrote, the cost to perform those services has increased.

City administration worked with accountant Kelly Howey of Plante Moran to review the associated costs to provide all of these services for the DDA. It was determined that the costs to provide the current level of service to the DDA exceed the amounts being paid back to the city by

the DDA.

DDA chairperson Alicia McGovern and City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson had several meetings to iron out the details before presenting it to the DDA and the city council.

The DDA held a special meeting on March 9 to discuss proposed changes to the agreement. The DDA asked for language to be added stating there would be monthly reporting on work completed in the DDA district by the Department of Public Works. The DPW has started daily logs of its work, City Manager Robinson said.

The services include maintenance performed by the DPW in the district, administrative services, tax roll preparation, liability and property insurance, the annual audit, and financial / accounting services. It also includes the upstairs DDA office space with computer at a cost of \$200 per month.

The agreement also allows for adjustments to payments based on the rate of inflation not to exceed 5%.

In other business at the one-hour-and-13-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Heard chairperson McGovern announce the citizen comments for both agenda and non-agenda items would now be at the beginning of the meeting and there would be no citizen comments during the meeting or at the end;

- Approved allocating up to \$3,000 to

purchase 35 new hanging baskets with water reservoirs in the bottom that will reduce the costs and efforts of watering. They can be watered every other day instead of every day. After discussion, the color green was requested for the baskets. The baskets were recommended by Joyce Rochowiak of Garden Fantasy which provides the hanging baskets filled with flowers for the summer. She said the new baskets are expected to last 15-20 years and a lot of cities are using these. She said the baskets are made by Eckert's Greenhouse in Sterling Heights, so there will be no supply-chain problem in getting them, and she will pick up the baskets so there will be no delivery charge;

- Unanimously passed a resolution pledging the DDA's tax increment revenues to pay the interest and principal for the Streetscape Bonds for the 2022 Refunding procedure. The city is in the process of refinancing the existing bond debt to achieve considerable savings. It was estimated the projected tax increment revenues available would be \$800,000 per year from the 2022-23 to 2028/29 fiscal years to pay off the bonds;

- After discussion, tabled the purchasing policy presented by DDA Director McLean and directed him to be more specific and update the policy for the April 20 meeting;

- Approved a \$8,500 contract with GMS Sealcoating for Main Street restriping from N. Liberty Street to Five Points, with the DDA paying \$4,250 of that and the city paying \$4,250 out of its Major Streets Fund. GMS would be able to complete the work on a Sunday, striping yellow curbs, yellow strips down the middle of Main Street, white parking spots and crosswalk. GMS said the city will street sweep Main Street and leave out blockades. They will start at Hayward's to High Street, then move forwards from High to Third and then Third to City Hall;

- Discussed electrical work that needs to be done in the Fourth Street Square and Fourth Street Place with McLean recommending installation of an electrical cabinet in Fourth Street Place and to pursue repairs to the existing outlets in Fourth Street Square that are currently inoperable. The suggested removal of the existing pole in Fourth Street Square to put lines underground would be both time- and cost-prohibitive, he said. Mayor Kerreen Conley, who sits on the DDA, said she has an issue with electrical boxes and she wants to know where it's going to be and what it looks like. McLean said the Fourth Street Place electrical box would be in the parking lot. Councilman Steve Jones said there are no poles on Fourth Street Place and tree grates only there, with lights planned for the base of the trees. McGovern advised Jones that they are not having public comments during the meetings now. DDA member Jim Chudzinski asked how much power is needed at Fourth Street Square for the stage and Jones said it was two, 110-

(continued on page 17)



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 March 29 – Mary Ellen Morris, Claire Albrehart, Patricia Kirkpatrick
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City of Belleville Public Notice



**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2022 - 7:30 pm
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM. Those attending in-person were required to complete a Covid-19 health screening form. All persons who had not been vaccinated for Covid-19 were required to wear a mask while in City Hall. The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Henry	Present
Council Member Jones	Present
Council Member Bates	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Arrived at 7:35 p.m.

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations – None

B. Council Follow Up List

1) Council Member Bates stated she was happy to see the addition of a court worker on the list. She also requested that cleanup of the DPW side lot be added.

2) Council Member Jones stated that he would like to see permanent signage for the BORA DORA district added to the list, per his comments at the last meeting.

3) Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt asked for repair of the intersection of Main St. and N. Liberty to be added to the list.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

1) John Juriga informed everyone that there would be an open house/dedication held at the Belleville Area District Library on April 9th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 22, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Henry to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Resolution # 22-018 – Board and Commission Appointments/Re-Appointments

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution # 22-018** to make re-appointments to the Planning Commission, as well as one new appointment to the Planning Commission, and one new appointment to the Board of Review. (Mayor Conley arrived at 7:35 p.m. prior to approval of this resolution).

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye

Council Member Henry Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt Aye
Mayor Conley Aye

Motion Carried.

B) Dates for Departmental Budget Study Session

1. Decision made by City Council to move the Departmental Budget Study Sessions to April 11th and April 13th, at 6 p.m.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution #22-019** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• City Manager Robinson welcomed the new members to the Planning Commission and the Board of Review and thanked those who volunteer when the city needs them.

• Stated it was a busy day due to the incident at Belleville High School, in which a student was found to be in possession of a firearm on school property.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Henry
-- No comments.

• Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt
-- Thanked everyone for being at the meeting.

• Thanked everyone on the city's boards and commissions.

• Council Member Jones
-- No comments.

• Council Member Bates
-- Thanked everyone for being at the meeting.
-- Thanked everyone who volunteers for the city's boards and commissions.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

• Mayor Conley thanked all who volunteer for the city's boards and commissions.

• Thanked Belleville High School administration, the Belleville Police Department, the person who brought the incident at the school to the faculty's attention, and the parents who were present at the meeting regarding the incident. She also stated that the school was very responsive and transparent.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

• Mike Renaud
-- Thanked DPW for their filling of potholes in the city.

-- Agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt that the intersection of Main St. and N. Liberty needs repair.

• Tom Fielder
-- Commended previous city and DDA administration for the road work done as part of the DDA Streetscape project, as it is still holding strong.

-- Thanked City Council for appointing him to the Planning Commission.

-- Asked that DDA special meeting dates be posted on the city's website.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman, City Clerk
Approved: 3/21/22
Posted: 3/21/22
Published: 3/24/22

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Correction:

Sumpter bidder says he was ready to start development at once

Frank Broughton sent us an email to inform us we had printed some inaccurate information in our March 17 edition.

He explained: “As I was reading through your story about the property bids for Sumpter Township, I noticed some inaccurate info. The second to last bullet point states: ‘The \$42,000 bidder said he couldn’t start within three to five years...’

“I was the lone bidder at \$42,000 and never actually heard any response from Sumpter on this bid since the day it was presented to them. I have made no public comments related to this property bid. I’m not sure who stated it would have taken me 3-5 years to get going because I could have started 30 days after plans were presented. I would have also offered the property to the residents, as an option for them.”

Neighbor to the property Cory Blue was the one quoted on remarks at the March 8 meeting, saying the bidder said he couldn’t start for three to five years. When we asked, Blue said that’s what he was told by someone who was at the bid opening. We regret the confusion.

Editor Rosemary K. Otzman

Public Notice

**ATTENTION
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This serves as a notification that you are hereby summoned to appear at 34th District Court on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 1 p.m. pertaining to case number 22-0458.

Published: March 24, March 31, April 7, 2022

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City of Belleville Public Notice



**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING**

**The Belleville City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.**

**The purpose of the public hearing is for public input
regarding an amendment to the codified ordinances that
would add a chapter pertaining to post-construction
stormwater management.**

**The Public Hearing will take place at the Municipal Building,
6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111.**

**Briana Hootman
City Clerk**

Publish: March 24, 2022, and March 31, 2022

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On March 30th, 2022, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2008	LINCOLN	4D	3LNHM26T58R612478	22-0234
2011	JEEP	SW	1J4RR4GT6BC574392	22-1048
2009	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WT57K191172182	22-1432
2008	HYUNDAI	4D	5NPET46C28H359368	22-1450
2007	MERCURY	SW	4M2YU91137KJ11606	22-1450B
1981	YAMAHA	MC	JYA4X7009BA009035	22-1220B
2006	DODGE	PU	1D7HU18256S708671	22-1248
2015	CHEVROLET	SW	2GNALBEKXF6173467	22-1065
2003	DODGE	PU	1D7FL16X73S323181	22-1474
2002	JEEP	SW	1J4FA49SX2P711132	22-1584

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles are offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2000	TOYOTA	4D	4T1BG22K9YU621316	22-1125
2013	DODGE	4D	1C3CDZCB2DN675395	22-1582
2007	LINCOLN	4D	5LMFU28587LJ00066	22-1627A
2002	SATURN	SW	5GZCZ23DX2S818502	22-1627C
1995	VOLKSWAG	CN	WVWBC81E2SK002252	22-1627E
1997	JEEP	SW	1J4GZ58SXVC507074	22-1627F
2003	INFINITI	2D	JNKCVC54E73M204193	22-1627G

All vehicles are sold in “as is condition.” Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright MMC, CMMC., Van Buren Township Clerk,
Published: March 24th, 2022

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2022**

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Trustee Frazier. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Executive Assistant Dohring, Director of Planning and Economic Development Powers, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Water and Sewer Saums, Human Resources Director Sumpter, Police Chief Wright, Fire Chief McNally, Director of Recreation Zaenglein, Administrative Assistant Schmidtke and an audience of sixteen (16).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Miller moved; Martin seconded to approve the revised agenda removing New Business Item #5. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Miller moved; Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Work Study Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2022, Prepaid List of March 3, 2022, Prepaid List of March 10, 2022, Voucher List of March 15, 2022 and Approval of the updated Recreation Committee Bylaws. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

**C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /
ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:**

Van Buren Township businesses have 10 days to clean up trash on their properties before Ordinance violation tickets will be issued; Parks and Recreation received a \$100,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Habitat Restoration at Riggs Park; Van Buren Township reported 0 Covid cases on March 15, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Personal Service Agreements for Jason Wright and David C. McNally II. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve of multi-department budgetary amendments to the 2022 Amended Budget. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Miller seconded to approve of wage increases for Van Buren Township Election Workers. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Boynton seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 03-15-22(1) an amendment of Chapter 74 (Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places) Article II (Sidewalks) to amend Sec. 74-26. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Discussion was had on changing the Work Study date and start times.

ADJOURNMENT: Martin moved; Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Date

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: March 24, 2022

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 13)

volt units. McLean said he is talking with electricians and McGovern said they will discuss this subject at the next meeting;

• Heard Director McLean report that Pioneer Landscaping has begun work on the parks and put fresh mulch in Victory Park. He also noted that the DDA's attorney Kevin Kilby of McGraw Morris is raising his rates from \$135 an hour to \$170 an hour as of April 1. DDA Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams asked McLean to make a ledger of their checks and dates of service because some of those on the voucher list for payment at that meeting were from last October. McLean said he would, and noted the DDA was just invoiced from Garden Fantasy for the two she mentioned;

• Heard McGovern say that the DDA agenda is on the website and can be picked up at the door at the meeting and so people

can comment on issues at the beginning of the meeting. She said this was the last night for comments at the end of the meeting. Richardson-Williams said she was not comfortable with the new rule because if they don't comment how do you know what people want? McGovern said they need to keep an orderly meeting and Richardson-Williams replied, "We serve the public." DDA member Valerie Kelley-Bonner said this is not the public's meeting, it's the DDA meeting and they need to tighten it up so it goes efficiently. McGovern said if anyone has an issue he or she could contact McLean and it could be put on the agenda. Chudzinski said if Jones hadn't spoken up and told the DDA that they need two 110 services they wouldn't know. That was useful information, he said. Richardson-Williams said she wants to go on record as being against this;

• Heard Councilman Jones say that 39 different schools are coming to join the Belleville High School team in competitions for FIRST Robotics with registration and set up on March 24 and competitions on March 25 and 26 at BHS. The public is encouraged to attend;

• Heard City Manager Robinson say he is working on a grant for improvements to Victory Park. He also said they will have to figure out how to handle the new city employees he will hire who will be working two to three months prior to the end of the fourth quarter. McGovern agreed an addendum to the previous contract would be best; and

• Heard Planning Commissioner Tom Fielder said it's the job of the chairman of the board to stay on task at the meetings and he asked if McGovern made the decision by herself to limit public comments to the beginning of the meeting and, if so, is that permissible? McGovern said she checked it out and never found that it needs to be approved by the board. Fielder said he disagrees and will check it out himself. McGovern said in previous meetings citizens have taken the meeting "way off

the train tracks." She said anyone with an issue can send it to McLean to be put on the agenda. "Valuable information was not available to the board," Fielder said, referring to comments from Councilman Jones, and DDA member Kelly McWilliams said public comments aren't always correct and need to be checked out. Fielder asked,

"People making comments is a dangerous thing?" McGovern said, "We still have to check." Fielder accused them of telling him to shut up and DDA members accused him of trying to put words in their mouths. As the argument continued, Richardson-Williams made a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned.

School Board hears presentation on pre-school tuition program

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

During Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, Becky Ross, director of the recently constructed Early Childhood Development Center, gave a presentation on preliminary plans to open the pre-school tuition program in the fall.

She said she had 72 respondents to a family survey and she went over the results with the board members, saying 40% don't need care outside of the school year.

She said they plan a year-round tuition program from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with full day and half-day options.

There will be four tuition classrooms: infants, toddlers, three-year-old preschool, and four-year-old preschool. The GSRP, ECP and ASD classes will continue.

Ross explained the Infant Room cares for those six weeks through 18 months; Toddler and Twos Room is for those 18 months to 36 months. Ratio is four children to one caregiver. Tuition will have daily and weekly rates.

The Three-Year-Old Preschool classroom is for those who are age three by Sept. 1 and the ratio is 10 children to one caregiver. The Four-Year-Old Preschool classroom requires children to be four by Sept. 1. The ratio is 12 children to one caregiver. Tuition is for a semester or yearly program, billed in 10 monthly installments.

Ross said this is a work in progress and she will return with an update after other details have been decided.

In other business at the one-hour meeting, the board:

• Honored coaches and members of the winter athletic programs: wrestling, bowling, and swimming. The basketball team was not present because members were practicing for their quarterfinal contest the next day. The swim coach said there are 16 members of the swim team and all 16 have grade point averages of 3.0 or higher and of those 10 had GPAs of 4.0 or higher;

• Approved the purchase of 35 laptops and peripherals from Inacom TSG for a total amount of \$35,331.15 from the Enhancement Millage Funds. These will be for the administrative staff whose current laptops are in need of replacement;

• Approved the purchase of 12 HP desktops and monitors from Sehi Computer Products for \$20,616 from the Enhancement Millage Funds. This is so BHS can start an Esports team and it is in need of PCs capable of running the games that are used in competitions. The IT Department wants the desktops with monitors to be installed in BHS Lab 84 for use by the Esports team after school. During the day they will be utilized for the new Robotic Arm programming class that will start next year;

• Approved the purchase of 35 HP desktops and monitors from Sehi Computer Products for the total amount of \$60,130 from the IT Equipment budget. The current Dell workstations being used in the BHS media productions computer lab will not be able to run the next version of the Adobe Creative Cloud suite. Adobe licensing requires that they run the most current version in school labs due to the subscription model they utilize, explained Sean Garland. BHS maintains a full load of classes in this lab daily and uses them to produce the student yearbook each year. The new computers will replace the 35 HP desktops with monitors to refresh the lab; and

• Reviewed the calendar for next school year and heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun and Director of instruction Jeff Moore explain the four early release days added to calendar. Early release days are days that students would get released two hours earlier than their normal school day. This provides greater flexibility to provide professional development and staff collaboration and is being tried in other districts.

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4 DAYS ONLY!

March 24

10am-5pm

March 25

10am-5pm

March 26

11am-3pm

March 27

11am-3pm

MANUFACTURER LIQUIDATING INVENTORY. EVERYTHING PRICED BELOW WHOLESALE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 734-697-9110

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 247 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, March 13:

0114 – domestic, Brandi Dr.
0354 – 911 welfare check, E. Sadie Ln.
0447 – suspicious person/vehicle, Andover Dr.
0454 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa
0800 – family trouble, Walden Blvd.
0859 – assist other dept., Van Buren St.
0913 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0915 – suspicious person/vehicle, Meadows Ct.
0941 – intrusion alarm, Belmont Dr.
1037 – assist fire dept., W. Huron River/Ormond
1041 – assist citizen, Quirk Rd.
1059 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1138 – assist other dept., WB I-94/bypass
1216 – personal injury accident, Southport Apts.
1218 – property damage accident, Pebblebrook Dr.
1235 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd./Robson Rd.
1335 – assist other dept., Belmont Dr.
1405 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1422 – retail fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1449 – civil matter, Reene Dr.
1456 – prisoner transport, Tyler Rd.
1522 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1523 – family trouble, Westlake Cir.
1532 – harassment call, N. Bellridge Dr.
1619 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1715 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Van Born/Haggerty Rd.
1718 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1834 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1955 – assist citizen, Briarwood Dr.
2013 – threat, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2135 – parking complaint, Lighthouse Dr.
2208 – assist other dept., Savage Rd.
2355 – 911 welfare check, Meadows Cir.

Monday, March 14:

0113 – breaking & entering, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0157 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0951 – 911 welfare check, Van Born
0955 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1039 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.
1234 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1302 – vehicle lockout, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1322 – misc. complaint, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1502 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1507 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1517 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
1619 – civil matter, Ash Dr.
1638 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
1708 – suspicious person/vehicle, Gilmore St.
1906 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
2028 – suspicious person/vehicle, Paloma Dr.
2117 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
2151 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.
2232 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr./Hannan Rd.
2301 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, March 15:

0001 – property damage accident, E. I-94/Hannan
0005 – civil matter, Birch Dr.
0146 – domestic, Meadows Cir.
1111 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.
1117 – assist fire dept., Winding Pond Dr.
1315 – misc. complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1416 – assist fire dept., S I-94 Service/Haggerty
1435 – assist citizen, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1447 – assist citizen, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1615 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1631 – parking complaint, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
1631 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1638 – family trouble, Ormond Dr.
1849 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1851 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.
1959 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2017 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2025 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2150 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2242 – traffic offense, Winding Pond Dr.
2343 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, March 16:

0017 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0328 – harassment call, Richard Run Dr.
0722 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0747 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0752 – assist other dept., Victoria St.

0756 – vehicle lockout, Ecorse Rd.
0851 – domestic, Morton Taylor Rd.
0914 – harassment call, S. Woodbury Dr.
1003 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1100 – domestic, Morton Taylor Rd.
1239 – intrusion alarm, Belle Pointe Dr.
1344 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1414 – animal complaint, Moms Dr.
1712 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.
1737 – vehicle lockout, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1818 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Alden
1830 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
1845 – traffic offense, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2139 – 911 welfare check, Van Buren St.
2148 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2218 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.

Thursday, March 17:

0102 – 911 welfare check, Westlake Cir.
0130 – suspicious person/vehicle, SB I-275/Ecorse
0458 – vehicle lockout, Maple Dr.
0830 – intrusion alarm, Pebblebrook Dr.
0854 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0924 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0950 – malicious destruction of property, Michigan Ave.
1306 – welfare check, Sadie Ln.
1325 – intrusion alarm, Dalton Dr.
1453 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1500 – ordinance violation, Coolidge St.
1533 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1541 – 911 welfare check, Sadie Ln.
1647 – larceny from auto, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1727 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1758 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1828 – suspicious person/vehicle, Alba Ct.
1913 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1919 – neighbor trouble, Rose Blvd.
2028 – domestic, Denton Rd.
2029 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rose Blvd.
2038 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.
2041 – property check, Laguna Dr.
2106 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2131 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/Yost

Friday, March 18:

0139 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton
0141 – suspicious person/vehicle, Landmark
0150 – assist other dept., N. Northville Place
0257 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
0454 – intrusion alarm, Coca-Cola Dr.
0631 – dumping complaint, Morton Taylor Rd. / Van Born Rd.
0740 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Van Born
1026 – juvenile complaint, McBride
1303 – family trouble, Parkside Dr.
1323 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

1601 – neighbor trouble, Outer Dr.
1640 – 911 welfare check, Basswood Cir.
1712 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
1719 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1815 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1828 – Walmart property check, Belleville Rd.
1829 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
1850 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2022 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkwood Dr.
2236 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2350 – welfare check, Jackson St.

Saturday, March 19:

0147 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
0201 – overdose, McKinley St.
0219 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0215 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
0524 – lost property/child, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0809 – property damage accident, Rose Blvd.
0848 – civil matter, N. i-94 Service Dr.
0954 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
0957 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1025 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1113 – family trouble, Solitude Ln.
1146 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
1220 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1432 – civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1511 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.
1521 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1525 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1716 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1745 – mental subject, Robbe Rd.
1857 – welfare check, Arthur St.

1909 – mental subject, Wilson Ave.
2054 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2100 – intrusion alarm, Pebblebrook Dr.
2152 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hayes St.
2201 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2253 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2304 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2323 – property damage accident, E. U.S. 12 / Ecorse Rd.
Also on this week's log are 64 traffic stops, with seven of those on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 13:

0053 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.
0147 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
0325 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
0912 – traffic offense, High St./Brain St.
1003 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
1021 – assist fire dept., Huron River Dr./W. Columbia Ave.
1300 – property damage accident, High/Edison
1510 – welfare check, Belleville Library
1616 – traffic stop, Wexford Ave.
1702 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1712 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1732 – traffic offense, Melody/W. Huron River
1747 – traffic stop, Savage/tracks
1827 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
2008 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
2021 – traffic stop, Main St.
2021 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
2055 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Liberty

Monday, March 14:

0116 – traffic stop, South St.
1131 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2043 – traffic stop, E. Huron River/S. Biggs
2055 – traffic stop, E. Huron River/N. Liberty
Tuesday, March 15:
0202 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0615 – traffic stop, E. Huron River/Loza Ln.
1253 – suicidal person, Third St.
1405 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1729 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
1745 – misc. complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1902 – traffic stop, E. Huron River/Potter Dr.
2213 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.

Wednesday, March 16:

0055 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/S. Liberty
0943 – parking complaint, N. Liberty/Fifth
1111 – traffic stop, High St.
1306 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./First St.
1325 – traffic stop, Madelon/E. Columbia Ave.
1401 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1613 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/Main St.
1643 – traffic offense, Main St.
1650 – traffic stop, Loranger
1718 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1734 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
1851 – misc. complaint, Main St.
2125 – traffic stop, South St./E. Davis St.
2156 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
2211 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.

Thursday, March 17:

0048 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
0534 – traffic stop, W. Wabash/South St.
0800 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
0808 – traffic stop, Main St.
0816 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0923 – traffic stop, Main St.
1032 – traffic stop, Main St.
1126 – traffic stop, S. Liberty/E. Columbia Ave.
1158 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1251 – juvenile complaint, Fourth St.
1315 – 911 welfare check, Main St.
1600 – traffic stop, Main St.
1606 – traffic stop, main St.
1639 – traffic offense, Main St./Third St.
1755 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
1808 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1821 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.
1928 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1955 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
2013 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2045 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.
2139 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd./Davis

2232 – noise complaint, N. Liberty St.
Friday, March 18:
0207 – fight, Carmell St.
0406 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
0617 – assault & battery, Carmell St.
0739 – intrusion alarm, South St.
1047 – suicidal person, Third St.
1418 – threat, E. Huron River Dr.
2213 – suspicious person/vehicle, Santa Clara St.
Saturday, March 19:
0251 – traffic stop, Main St./E. Columbia Ave.
1109 – hospice death, Santa Clara St.
1202 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1418 – threat, N. Liberty St.
There were 45 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 13:

0049 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0411 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
0901 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1135 – property damage accident, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1344 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1850 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Sumpter
1959 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2001 – suspicious person, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
2059 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
2146 – noise complaint, Timberlane Dr.
2359 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Monday, March 14:

0153 – warrant arrest, Clay Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0306 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Judd
0827 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0840 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1002 – 911 hang up, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1258 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1306 – civil matter, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1528 – noise complaint, Redwood St.
1607 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1619 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1637 – personal injury accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1757 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.
2022 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl Arkona Rd.
2121 – family trouble, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.

Tuesday, March 15:

0030 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1022 – flee & elude, Rawsonville Rd./Willow Rd.
1315 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1336 – traffic complaint/road, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1622 – suspicious circumstance, Wayside Dr.
1725 – follow-up investigation, Edgewood Dr.
1814 – follow-up investigation, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1818 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1901 – ORV complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

Wednesday, March 16:

0028 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0933 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1343 – missing person, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1400 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1422 – suspicious person, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1431 – fraud, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1514 – property damage accident, Edgewood Dr.
1536 – larceny, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1902 – follow-up investigation, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2021 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2216 – animal complaint, Willis Rd./Rawsonville
2336 – warrant arrest, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, March 17:

0931 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1210 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1338 – suspicious person, Brookview Dr.
1350 – 911 hang up, Lohr Rd.
1514 – harassment complaint, Texas St.
1547 – neighbor dispute, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1552 – neighbor dispute, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1735 – suspicious circumstance, 41000 bl. Harris
1923 – family trouble, Texas St.
2018 – family trouble, Mulberry St.
2024 – suspicious circumstance, Brookview Dr.
2039 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
2140 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Bemis
2312 – mental health call, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2339 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.

(Continued on page 19)

The **meijer** Simply Give Campaign

Runs
January 2
through April 2, 2022



The Belleville Meijer store is partnering with the Emergency Food Closet housed at the First United Methodist Church to provide food for area families. You can be part of this effort by purchasing food cards at the store check outs. For each \$10 you donate, Meijer will issue a \$10 food card to the food closet. **Double Match Days** – On **Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, March 26**, Meijer will **double match** your donation. A \$10 purchase on those days results in \$30 of food cards for the Emergency Food Closet.



Please help
feed the hungry
in
Van Buren and
Sumpter Townships
and
the City of Belleville

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

Friday, March 18:

0124 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
0146 – operating while intoxicated arrest,
Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
0215 – noise complaint, 22000 bl Martinsville Rd.
0746 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
0834 – suspicious circumstance, Texas St.
0922 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1107 – suspicious person, Haggerty Rd./Willow
1228 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1449 – suspicious vehicle, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1614 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
2038 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
2316 – assist other agency, out of township

Saturday, March 19:

0426 – noise complaint, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1359 – alarm, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1924 – harassment complaint, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
2001 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.
2230 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
2315 – welfare check, 8200 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
2355 – assist other agency, 19000 bl. Savage Rd.
Also on this week's log are 148 patrol checks, 64 traffic stops, and seven misc. details.

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"

– Isaac Asimov

Independent wins award in annual Michigan Press Association contest

The Belleville-Area Independent won a feature-writing award in its category in the 2021 Better Newspaper contest put on by the Michigan Press Association.

The awards were announced on March 17. The 2022 contest begins Aug. 1.

The Independent competes in the Weekly Class C category for circulation 3,001 to 7,000.

The Independent won third place in the Feature Story category which had 43 entries and was judged by the Arkansas Press Association. The story "Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist swamped out in VBT fire" was written by Editor Rosemary K. Oztman and published in the June 3, 2021 issue of the paper.

The subject was J. Ross Baughman, who won a Pulitzer for photos taken in Africa in 1977.

First place in that category was won by Oceana's Herald-Journal and second place by the Grosse Pointe News. The South Lyon Herald earned an honorable mention.

The Michigan Press Association said its annual Better Newspaper Contest allows member journalists, photojournalists, columnists, and designers to show off their best work. Each year, a state press association reviews thousands of entries submitted by Michigan newspapers and individual members. The increased competition inspires all journalists to produce better work, which in turn, nurtures stronger communities.

This year MPA journalists are judging the contest for the Colorado Press Association.

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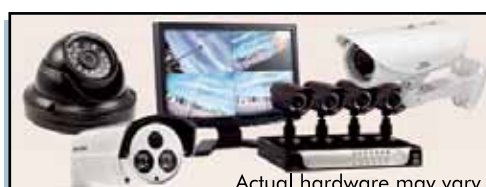
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